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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK
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INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 2082
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE 0171
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA IMMEDIATE 0181
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 0654
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 0470
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE 0178
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 0337
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 2477
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1863
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RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: SPANISH FM MORATINOS OFFERS OSCE AS MEDIATOR IN
KYRGYZSTAN

Classified By: Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) OSCE Chairman in Office and Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos paid a four-hour visit to Kyrgyzstan on April 13, meeting separately with President Bakiyev and former Prime Minister and opposition United Front Leader Kulov. According to OSCE Ambassador Mueller, Moratinos told both men that it was important to solve the political crisis peacefully, dialogue was necessary, and the OSCE was prepared to help mediate if desired. While Kulov expressed interest in a mediating role for the OSCE, the President made no comment and Mueller said he was clearly not interested. The meeting with Kulov lasted longer than anticipated, and Moratinos was more than 20 minutes late heading out to his last event, a press conference.

¶2. (C) In an odd incident, that OSCE deputy chief Sabine Machl said was "reminiscent of Turkmenistan," the scheduled press conference did not occur. The OSCE claims that Kyrgyz Protocol insisted that the Manas Airport was closing early for runway maintenance and drove straight to the airport and would not stop at the press conference venue, where journalists and Machl were waiting. (Note: the airport does close early on Fridays; something Moratinos' flight crew failed to plan for. In the event, U.S. officials at Manas Air Base requested that the airport remain open an additional thirty minutes past the scheduled closing time to accommodate Moratinos' departure. End Note.)

¶3. (C) Deputy Foreign Minister Sarbayev claims, that on the contrary, the OSCE scheduled a last-minute meeting with Kulov, without coordinating with the MFA, at the time originally scheduled for the press conference. According to Sarbayev, Moratinos decided there was then insufficient time for a press conference and asked to be taken directly to the

airport, a claim we find hard to believe, given Moratinos' affinity for the spotlight. We suspect the Kyrgyz were displeased with Moratinos' meeting with Kulov and, unsure what Moratinos might say to the press, chose to preempt the press conference on the pretext of the airport closure.

YOVANOVITCH